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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000793

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/01/2013

TAGS: PGOV PREL NP I2

SUBJECT: NEPAL CRACKS DOWN ON IRAQI TRAVELERS

Classified By: DCM Robert K. Boggs for reasons 1.5 (b,d)

¶1. (C) In a May 1 conversation with the DCM, Foreign Secretary Madhu Raman Acharya disclosed that the Government

SIPDIS  
of Nepal (GON) has instructed all its diplomatic posts not to issue visas to Iraqi passport holders without specific authorization from the Foreign Ministry in Kathmandu. According to Acharya, the GON will consider issuing visas to Iraqis with good reasons to be in Nepal, but will advise the Embassy in advance of any such issuance and provide biographic and travel information on those permitted entry.

¶2. (U) Additionally, fifteen Iraqi refugees transiting Nepal on their way to Sweden were initially detained by the GON. All fifteen claimed to be Christians fleeing religious persecution in Iraq. Some were seeking to join family members already in Sweden. Eight subsequently have been released to the UNHCR for further processing. Three of the Iraqis still in custody are in deportation proceedings, and the remaining four are under criminal investigation for their use of false documents.

MALINOWSKI